

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-11, 13, 15-19, 21, 23-28 and 32-33 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 5, 6, 8-10, 15-18, 23-26, 31 and 32 have been amended and claims 1, 3, 11, 13, and 21 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated September 30, 2008.

Allowable Claimed Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 7, 27 and 28 are allowable. It is further submitted that claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 32 have been amended to depend on allowable independent claim 7 and, as such, it is believed that such claims are now allowable. It is further submitted that claims 15-18 and 33 have been amended to depend from allowable independent claim 27 and, as such, it is believed that such claims are now allowable as well. Finally, it is submitted that claims 23-26 have been amended to depend from allowable independent claim 28 and, as such, such claims are believed to be allowable.

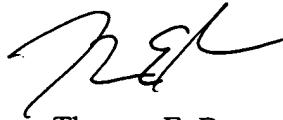
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the remaining pending claims 5-10, 15-18, 23-28, 32 and 33, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Thomas E. Brown
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,450
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

TEB/nrp